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INFO RUFLAEA/AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY 4695
RUFLLEPA/AMCONSUL ADANA 0977
RUQMPL/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 4933
RUEH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 7438
RUQMCG/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 1313
BT
UNCLAS ANKARA 07940

IZMIR ALSO FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, SHUM, NATO, CY, TU, GR, US, OVIP
- (SOLARZ, STEPHEN)
SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ'S
- VISIT TO TURKEY

1. SUMMARY: CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ' VISIT TO ISTANBUL AND ANKARA WAS THE SUBJECT OF MAJOR ARTICLES--AND MIXED REVIEWS--IN TURKEY'S MAJOR NEWSPAPERS. TWO COVERED THE VISIT POSITIVELY, EMPHASIZING SOLARZ' PAST RECORD AS A "FRIEND OF TURKEY" AND HIS "GUARANTEE" THAT TURKEY WILL RECEIVE 715 MILLION DOLLARS IN FY85 AS A RESULT OF A CONTINUING RESOLUTION. A THIRD LIMITED ITSELF TO AN ACCOUNT OF HIS AUGUST 29 ANKARA PRESS CONFERENCE. THE OTHER PAPER ACCUSED SOLARZ OF SOUNDING LIKE A "REPRESENTATIVE OF ATHENS," HIGHLIGHTING HIS CALL FOR TURKISH CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS. END SUMMARY.

2. TURKEY'S LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER, MASS APPEAL "HURRIYET," GAVE SOLARZ' VISIT THE MOST SYMPATHETIC COVERAGE, FEATURING A FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF THE SMILING, TOWEL-CLAD CONGRESSMAN PREPARING FOR A MASSAGE IN A TURKISH BATH. THE RELATED ARTICLE ON AN INSIDE PAGE REPEATEDLY REFERRED TO SOLARZ AS A "FRIEND OF TURKEY" AND HIGHLIGHTED DECLARATIONS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY SOLARZ THAT HE WILL WORK TO INCREASE TURKISH SECURITY ASSISTANCE WHEN CONGRESS RE-CONVENES IN SEPTEMBER, AND ASSERTING THAT TURKISH-U.S. RELATIONS ARE DEVELOPING IN A "VERY WARM AND FRIENDLY FASHION." THE PAPER ALSO NOTED SOLARZ' BELIEF THAT DENKTASH COULD EXPLOIT HIS "CARDS" MORE EFFECTIVELY ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE, THEREBY WINNING POINTS FOR TURKEY IN WORLD OPINION AND PUTTING THE BURDEN TO RESPOND "ON THE OTHER SIDE."

3. TWO OTHER NEWSPAPERS, CONSERVATIVE "TERCUMAN"

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AND LIBERAL "MILLIYET," FEATURED MAJOR INTERVIEWS WITH SOLARZ IN THE INSIDE PAGES OF THEIR NEWS SECTIONS, EACH PAPER EMPHASIZING THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ISSUE.

4. THE "TERCUMAN" ARTICLE TOOK A SOUR TACK, HEADLINING AN ALLEGED QUOTE FROM SOLARZ, TO THE EFFECT THAT "THE TURKISH SIDE MUST MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS ON CYPRUS," WITH THE EXPLANATORY "KICKER" THAT SOLARZ HAD "LINKED SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO THE CYPRUS ISSUE." THE ARTICLE ATTRIBUTED TO SOLARZ THE VIEW THAT "DESIRED LEVELS" OF AID WILL NOT BE ATTAINED UNTIL "DENKTASH" MAKES "SOME CONCESSIONS," TO WIT, "OPENING VAROSHA TO GREEK SETTLEMENT AND TAKING STEPS TOWARDS THE RE-OPENING OF NICOSIA AIRPORT." THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT SOLARZ WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, DESCRIBING DENKTASH AS "NOT THE SORT OF MAN WHO MAKES CONCESSIONS WITHOUT RECEIVING SOMETHING IN RETURN."

5. THE HEADLINE OF A SECOND "TERCUMAN" ARTICLE, REPORTING THE ANKARA PRESS CONFERENCE DECLARED THAT "THIS TIME SOLARZ SPOKE LIKE AMERICA'S ATHENS REPRESENTATIVE," A PLAY ON SOLARZ' COMMENT THAT HE USED TO BE KNOWN IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AS "ANKARA'S REPRESENTATIVE." THIS ARTICLE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED SOLARZ' CLAIM THAT CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF TURKEY "WOULD DISAPPEAR" IF DENKTASH TURNED VAROSHA OVER TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS.

6. THE "MILLIYET" ARTICLE, BY VETERAN REPORTER SAMI KOHEN, EMPHASIZED SOLARZ' VIEWS THAT AN FY 85 CONTINUING RESOLUTION IS A NEAR CERTAINTY AND THAT, AS A RESULT, TURKEY IS "GUARANTEED" ITS FY 84 TOTAL OF 715 MILLION DOLLARS IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE WITH NO CYPRUS CONDITIONS ATTACHED. THE CONGRESSMAN NONTHELESS REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE HAD RUINED THE "PRO-TURKISH ATMOSPHERE" THAT HAD BEEN PREVAILING IN CONGRESS. SOLARZ FURTHER ASSERTED, ACCORDING TO KOHEN, THAT CYPRUS IS TURKEY'S ONLY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN CONGRESS, NOTING THAT CONGRESS DOES NOT CONCERN ITSELF WITH "HUMAN RIGHTS"

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IN TURKEY, ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN PLEASED WITH TURKEY'S RECENT DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS.

7. THE COVERAGE IN "GUNES" (MASS APPEAL) PRESENTED A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION OF SOLARZ' VIEWS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE, ATTRIBUTING TO HIM THE PREDICTION THAT THE SOON-TO-BE-FINALIZED AID FIGURES WILL BE "CLOSE TO" THE AMOUNT "ANTICIPATED" BY THE (U.S.) ADMINISTRATION. THE ARTICLE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED SOLARZ' CALL FOR DENKTASH TO "PLAY THE VAROSHA CARD EFFECTIVELY."

8. ON OTHER SUBJECTS, REPORTED IN VARIOUS OF THE FOUR NEWSPAPERS, SOLARZ REPORTEDLY

-- DISMISSED ANTI-TURKISH PLANKS IN THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PLATFORMS AS "CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA"

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THAT WILL NOT AFFECT U.S. POLICY;

-- CALLED UPON TURKS TO INVITE MORE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS AS A MEANS OF INCREASING U.S. UNDERSTANDING OF TURKEY (ACCORDING TO KOHEN, A TURKISH BUSINESSMEN'S ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD SOON DO SO);

-- CALLED UPON TURKEY TO EXPLOIT ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ARAB NATIONS IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

9. TURKISH JOURNALISTS ALSO SPOKE THEIR MIND TO SOLARZ ABOUT CYPRUS AND U.S. AID, ACCORDING TO "HURRIYET." WHEN SOLARZ ASKED TURKISH JOURNALISTS AT THE ANKARA PRESS CONFERENCE TO EVALUATE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN TURKEY, HE WAS REPORTEDLY TOLD THAT CYPRUS IS A VITAL SUBJECT FOR TURKEY, THAT THE "TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS" ENJOYS WIDE-SPREAD SUPPORT HERE, AND THAT THE LINKING OF CYPRUS AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE WOULD HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS.

10. THE NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORTED THAT SOLARZ MET WITH PRIME MINISTER OZAL, FOREIGN MINISTER HALEFOGLU, DEFENSE MINISTER YAVUZTURK, AND CHIEF OF STAFF URUG, AS WELL AS WITH SOME OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS. THE ONLY INDICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF SOLARZ' DISCUSSIONS WITH GOT OFFICIALS APPEARED IN "GUNES," WHICH REPORTED SOLARZ AS SAYING THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH OZAL U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS, CYPRUS, AND TURKEY'S TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY, EMPHASIZING THAT HE HAD COME TO TURKEY TO "LEARN," NOT TO PRESS A POINT OF VIEW.

11. THE "MILLIYET" ARTICLE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY A PICTURE OF SOLARZ WITH OZAL. YESTERDAY'S (AUGUST 29) MILLIYET NOTED THAT SOLARZ HAD ALSO MET WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER SULEYMAN DEMIREL, NOW BANNED FROM POLITICS.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

END OF MESSAGE

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